

STATE OF MARYLAND-DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum

October 31, 1994

MEMORANDUM

TO: George Hill, DNR

FROM: Julia A. King, JPPM

Thank you for sending me a copy of the draft "Point Lookout State Park Master Plan." I enjoyed reading it and was glad to see your effort at including cultural resources in various parts of the plan. I have some comments and suggestions that I think will make the document stronger in terms of cultural resource planning. I hope that you find these remarks useful. You may also want to ask staff at the Maryland Historical Trust to review the document in its draft stage.

1. Page 1, Goal 2.

Suggested added language:

"Develop a state park facility that allows for passive and active recreation with minimal impact on the natural environment and on cultural resource."

2. Page 1, Goal 3.

Suggested rewording:

"Maintain and improve programming at the interpretive center; to the extent possible inventory, identify, manage, preserve and interpret cultural resources at the park, with an interpretive emphasis on sites from the Civil War period; preserve existing farm lands and forested areas."

This language will allow you to be more flexible in your interpretative strategies. For example, DNR will not want necessarily mark all sites. Also, Point Lookout can be, I suspect, vulnerable to the depredations of metal detector enthusiasts, an activity which is, in most cases, illegal on state land.

I like your concept of the interrelatedness of history and the natural environment. This is an important point about Point Lookout which could be played up more than it has been.

3. Page 3.

It may be possible that ISTEA money would be available to develop the abandoned rail line as part of a trail system to connect the Jacobs farm and the older part of the park. This would allow the park to add some history in terms of Southern Maryland, transportation, etc. along the trail. Is the railroad bed discussed in literature related to the periwinkle trail?

4. Page 4.

First paragraph: Substitute "survive" for "hold overs."

Last Paragraph: Planning for the identification and preservation of historic sites should be considered one of the current planning issues facing Point Lookout State Park. While historic preservation is mentioned in the last sentence, it is not discussed up front as are the issues of public improvement and resource conservation. I urge you to move it more up front.

For example: "Planning for activity nodes such as camping loops, ball fields, canoe launches and fishing piers have to be balanced by the commitment of MDNR to preserve habitat for local flora and fauna, and by DNR's obligation to manage cultural and historic resources located at Point Lookout."

5. Page 7. Resource Analysis and Assessment

A Phase I Archaeological survey to locate and identify archaeological sites has not been completed. The 1974 survey did not generate the kind of detailed planning information that DNR's planners, engineers, etc., require in order to comply with Maryland laws and regulations concerning archaeological resources on state land. The least expensive way in the long run to collect this information will be a Park-wide systematic survey. The work that will be done as part of the Legacy Resources project will begin that survey. However, it is unlikely that DNR would get the funds to complete the park-wide survey. Therefore, funding for archaeological work should be budgeted into any capital project and/or other project that will disturb the ground. Ample time should also be budgeted to allow the archaeological work to proceed construction. Finally, any future Phase I work should be tied into the grid and collection system that will be established by the Legacy Resources project.

Once sites are identified, DNR should manage them so that they will remain preserved or, if they are to be disturbed, professional archaeological investigations are undertaken to mitigate damage to the archaeological information.

Throughout the document, you may want to consider substituting the word "archaeological sites" or "archaeological resources" for "artifacts" (e.g., page 12, line 2). While artifacts are an important source of information for archaeologists, artifacts are just one part of the data base. Associations among artifacts (e.g., what artifacts occur together and where), foundations, old roads, fence lines, etc., are equally important sources of information about the past. This is why archaeologists discourage metal detector enthusiasts on archaeological sites. These individuals dig into and therefore destroy soil layering to recover metal artifacts, destroying those artifacts' association with other materials such as ceramics, glass, animal bone, shell, and so on.

6. Page 13.

The mission of the various coalitions and commissions associated with greenways initiatives is described in the first column/second paragraph as "working to link wildlife habitat, historical resources and cultural resources to responsible management of the waterway and its drainage basin." Point Lookout, as you have repeatedly noted in the document, is a very important historic site. Why not discuss more how that history can be used to achieve greenways type goals? Why was Point Lookout chosen for the Civil War hospital and prison? When, how and why, during the 19th century, did people become interested in Point Lookout? These may seem like basic questions but they can also be used to highlight what went on at Point Lookout and why Point Lookout was the setting of those activities.

I realize that in the master plan you may not want to get into specific detail, but there are plenty of creative ways to highlight the history of Point Lookout. Brochures, the railroad bed as a trail, signage, an exhibit: these are not necessarily high cost.

Again I hope these comments are useful to you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 410-586-0050.

cc: Ross Kimmel

Memorandum

To: Julia King
From: George Hill, Dept of Natural Resources
Date: October 17, 1994

Subject: Archeology at Point Lookout State Park

I am in the early stages of preparing a master plan for new public improvements at Point Lookout State Park. We include a cultural resource analysis as a component of the master plan to help guide the course of new construction. Often, our sources need review by other professional in state government before the analysis can be considered complete. I have a draft master plan with a cultural resources section (pages 9-12) that I would like for you to review and provide preliminary comment on. Since it is early in the master plan process, I anticipate more changes in the text as new information becomes available. You will also have another chance to review a more polished document through DNR's environmental review procedure in the spring. Any comment that you think may help develop the narrative would be appreciated. I would also like to know if there are any glaring inaccuracies too. Thanks for your help. I can be reached at 410-974-3654.

draft

POINT LOOKOUT STATE PARK MASTER PLAN

date: 10-14-94

Executive Summary

The Point Lookout State Park Master ^{plan} represents the culmination of a concerted effort to chart the course of future development at a major resource of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). Completion of the master plan benefitted from the expertise of programs within MDNR in cooperation with other state agencies and private citizens with an interest in preserving a portion of Maryland's vast heritage. Particular attention has been directed towards balancing the needs of resource conservation and active recreation at Point Lookout State Park. Formal goals and objects ^(where) developed during the course of master planning to achieve this precious balance. They are recorded as follows:

Goal 1: Develop a state park that achieves integration of a cross section of user groups including recreation campers, boaters, sport fishermen, day users, naturalists and preservationists.

Objective: Improve public information on park; strengthen attractiveness of activity nodes; assure that all facilities are barrier free.

Goal 2: Develop a state park facility that allows for passive and active recreation with minimal impact on the natural ^{and on cultural} environment ^{resources}.

Objective: Design facilities with a good environmental fit; observe all regulatory guidelines in building park facilities.

✓ **Goal 3:** Provide a state park that observes the importance of history; its relationship to the natural surroundings.

Objective: Maintain and improve programming at the interpretive center; mark and maintain Civil War Era sites; preserve existing farm lands and forested areas.

These goals must be operative in a state park that is situated at the confluence of two of Maryland's most important natural resources: the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River. The state park's forested areas, wetlands,

high water table and waterfront plays ^{an} equal role in defining its character as does the administration of master plan recommendations.

Two major themes ~~helped to shape~~ ^{shaped} the kinds of improvement projects identified in the master plan. The theme of the natural and the historical reoccur throughout the text as they are inseparable from one's experience of the state park. Point Lookout State Park is endowed with a magnificent shore line bounded by two water bodies linked to the history of Maryland and the history of the United States. The Potomac River, dubbed the "America's River" during the early years of raised environmental consciousness, ^{includes} ~~defines~~ at points along its course, the boundaries of the nation's capital and several important historic sites. The Chesapeake Bay, the largest water feature of its kind in the United States, imparts to Maryland a great bounty of economic, natural and scenic wealth. Within the state park's boundaries, many important ^{artifacts} ~~remain~~ ^{sites} from the Civil War. Some of these artifacts are on display at the interpretive center, while many more have yet to be discovered. Southern Maryland's only remaining Civil War era fortification, Fort Lincoln, is situated within Point Lookout State Park. Two important historic structures located immediately outside the boundaries of the state park augment the importance of national history here.

Future improvements recognize the state park's importance as a vacation spot for tourists throughout Maryland and its neighboring states as the facility attracts over 340,000 visitors a year. Improvements such as-----must complement rather than obscure existing facilities. This improvement must also help to generate revenue to support state park operations. New improvements should also carefully blend with the natural assets represented by the former Jacobs farm, acquired by MDNR in 1992. Its largely undeveloped acreage represents an opportunity to introduce new activities to visitors not now served by current park capacity. These improvements are to be implemented during a series of phases as listed below.

Phase I:

Phase II:

Phase III:

Part 2
The Point Lookout State Master Plan serves as a guide to influence the outcome of management decision making capital construction. While its recommendations do not constitute a mandate governing the fine detail of physical improvements, the intent and spirit of these recommendations should be followed. In order to be timely and effective, the master plan requires periodic scrutiny and modification to reflect a changing technologic society. Consequently, this master plan incorporates those changes that have occurred during the interval between the 1965 master plan and 1995. The following text offers, in greater detail, a discussion based on the thinking that inspired its conceptual development.

Part 1: Introduction

Background of Planning History

Initial planning for Point Lookout State Park began in early 1962 after the purchase of 495 acres by the State of Maryland. Subsequent acquisitions absorbed parcels from the Scotland Beach subdivision into state park boundaries. A 1965 master plan developed by the consulting firm of Rummel, Klepner and Kohl, Engineers, recorded the prevailing themes then governing conventional park development. Facilities called for in this plan, camp loops, marina, play area and swimming beach, became physical improvements over the course of several years. The plan's division of Point Lookout State Park (south of the Civil War monuments) into two sectors remains. In the present scheme, the sector north of the Route 5 causeway is composed of camping loops and wash houses. The sector south of the causeway is composed of day use area, fishing piers, swimming beach and marina. This division is used as a point of reference throughout the master plan text.

A nature trail entitled the "Periwinkle Trail", an interpretive center (built 19--), the waste water treatment plant (built 19--) and the 600 foot long fishing pier (built 19--) are important state park features developed independent of the 1966 master plan.

Each sector of Point Lookout State Park south of the monuments has its charm and unique special character. The north sector has Point Lookout Creek, Lake Conoy and, Tanner Creek offering calm bodies of water suitable for sport fishing and row boating. Nearby campers take advantage of access to the water front and shoreline's natural features. The south sector is largely beach front property with extensive opportunity to reach the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River for recreation. Concrete capped stone jetty jut into the both water bodies allowing easy access for fishermen. A large day use area provides access to the Potomac River swimming beach, though sea nettle activity through most of the summer curtails swimming. Fort Lincoln, a Civil War Fort restored in 19-- offers the most ^{visible} tangible evidence of great history here along the Potomac River. A 45 acres barrier island between Lake Conoy and the Potomac River, just south west of the north

sector was designated a sensitive management area in 19--. The island, is accessible only by boat. It is to remain in a perpetual natural state according to COMAR.

A new scope for planning at Point Lookout State Park was introduced in 1992 with the purchase of the 536 acre former Jacobs farm. The former farmstead is situated northwest of the Civil War monuments and linked to the older portion of Point Lookout State Park at its north sector camp loop, Tulip Circle. The parcel contains farm structures and several natural resources. It has extensive shoreline, non-tidal wetlands, forest land and open fields. A sewer line from the MES plant at Point Lookout State Park runs through the farm property. An abandoned rail line also links the farm to the older section of state parkland. Options to formerly connect the two parcels are discussed within the master plan.

ISTEA
money?
trail?

Existing Capital Development

Point Lookout State Park is one of the three most improved MDNR properties in the Southern Region. Smallwood State Park in Charles County and Sandy Point State Park in Anne Arundel County also have considerable levels of public investment. Patrons seeking a facility with amenities for day use and over night stay are limited to Smallwood State Park and Point Lookout State Park. Visitors seeking these amenities in the lower portion of Southern Maryland choose Point Lookout State Park. With a visitorship of 340,000 people annually, the demand for park amenities require new thinking on facility planning.

Capital Development at Point Lookout State Park is represented by infrastructure (electric service, water service, sanitary service) and traditional park amenities (bath houses, camping loops, roads, trails, miniature golf course, fishing piers and fishing/boat docks). Maryland State Route 5 serves as the state park's main street connecting the older southern section to the former Jacob's farm, and linking the south and north sector recreation nodes. The north sector of Point Lookout State Park has six camp loops with a total of 164 spaces or pads for families and four large pads for groups.

not really
3

Twenty-six of these pads have water and electric service. Each pad has a fire ring and picnic table. There are five comfort station/wash houses serving these camp loops, as MES supplied sanitary service and water service eliminates the need for septic systems within the state park. The interpretive center, located near the cluster of camp loops, serves as trail head for the Periwinkle Trail. This sector has a popular miniature golf course. Park headquarters, a stone's throw east of the Malone Camp Loop, is located on Route 5 near a group of undistinguished homes. These homes are hold overs from the state park's early years as a resort/residential community. ^{word choice}

The north sector is also served by three fishing piers, the most prominent and recent addition located on Hoffman Point. The piers are used by campers for fishing, sight seeing and temporary boat docking.

The south sector includes major park facilities such as the maintenance complex, a group camping area (closed), a boat marina and concessions building, day use area, swimming beach and a concrete fishing pier. The fishing pier, day use area, and a sport fishing area near the U.S. Coast Guard station are served by comfort stations. The foot print of streets laid out for an early subdivision forms a grid pattern on the south sector allowing easy trail access to its various activity nodes. Several homes are located in the south sector. Most homes are still in use by MDNR employees or rented to local residents.

Historic buildings and sites are concentrated in the south sector of the park. The restored Fort Lincoln and a 1920's era smokehouse are on MDNR property. The nearby U.S. Coast Guard light house, on Federal land, was constructed in 1822. >

Point Lookout State Park is located at the very tip of Southern Maryland where tidal action from the confluence of two great waterbodies exert a profound influence the site's shoreline. Since the early 1800's, at the beginning of modern record keeping, the shorelines of Point Lookout have lost over 150 feet. Without engineering in the form of revetment and breakwaters, the Bay could easily

claim Point Lookout's remaining fast land. To provide continued enjoyment for patrons of the state park's resources a series of shore erosion control projects were built over the past twenty years. Initiated during the late 1960's and continuing to the present day, revetments, breakwaters and jetties have served to keep the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River from engulfing the south sector. Projects now underway include a revetment north of the old Point Lookout Hotel site and stone breakwaters and revetment near the Potomac River swimming beach. Completed work amounts to ---million dollars, with funding for planned work anticipated in the near future.

Modest shoreline protection work on Hoffman Point along Lake Conoy serves to stem erosion near the camp grounds. Inlet passages to Lake Conoy and Tanner Creek were built and maintained by MDNR. The present inlet passage to Lake Conoy from the Potomac River was completed in 19--. This passage replaced an older silted passage way, providing more land area for the barrier island nature preserve. The inlet to Tanner Creek from the Chesapeake Bay is currently under going major maintenance and reconstruction. This work is to be completed in 19--.

Current Planning Issues

Growing demand for camping at Point Lookout State Park, and an increase in leisure time interest by the public pose new questions for the adequacy of service at the state park. The acquisition of the former Jacobs farm suggests an opportunity to cast new light on the search for additional camping loop capacity and providing new activity nodes within Point Lookout State Park. Planning for activity nodes such as camping loops, ball fields, canoe launches and fishing piers have to be balanced by the commitment of MDNR to preserve habitat for local flora and fauna. Thus issues of public improvement, resource conservation and historic preservation weigh heavily on a portion of Maryland endowed with great scenic beauty and the imprint of social and natural history.

might also
note preservation
of historic
sites

Regional and Local Context

Introduction

Point Lookout State park is located at the confluence of the Potomac River and The Chesapeake Bay. This scenic location at the tip of St Mary's county accounts for its continued attraction to visitors throughout Maryland History.

Regional Setting

MDNR's Southern Region is composed of St. Mary's, Anne Arundel, Prince George's, Calvert and Charles Counties. The St. Mary's-Charles-Calvert County nexus, known as the Tri-county Area is the fastest growing community in the Southern Region. The three counties share similar physiography, as they are shaped by the course of three large bodies of water: the Patuxent River the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay.

Several major MDNR properties are located in the Tri-County Area. Each provides its own unique flavor to the mix of outdoor recreation experiences available in the region. Cedarville State Forest, Calvert Cliffs State Park, Smallwood State Park, Greenwell State Park, St. Clements Island State Park and St. Mary's River State Park offer a range of recreation pursuits for the public. Doncaster State Forest, Myrtle Grove Wildlife Management Area, Kings Landing Natural Resource Management Area, Zekiah Swamp Natural Environment Area, the Elms and Mattawoman Natural Environment Area serve to enhance natural resource conservation efforts while focusing on the more sublime aspects of outdoor recreation.

Point Lookout State Park, along with these MDNR facilities amount to 19,336 acres of public open space, about ---% of the Tri-County Area. The addition of Federal and county open space raises the percentage of land area to ---. Commercial, residential, and agricultural land uses, along with area devoted to transportation covers most of the local landscape. Efforts sponsored by MDNR in cooperation with local governments such as the Maryland Greenways initiative and the MDNR Public Lands Strategic Plan are seeking to protect more land from encroaching suburban sprawl to preserve it for future generations.

Local Setting

The topography of Point Lookout State Park, with a mean variation in elevation of 2 feet, contrasts greatly with the land form of St. Mary's County. St. Mary's County, with a land area of 267 square miles, has a gently rolling terrain with sharply defined stream valleys. The county is essentially a peninsula with over 400 linear miles of waterfront. It is a largely rural county, gradually making a transition to suburban development patterns near its older settlements like Leonardtown. Only 10% of its land area is developed for commercial, residential and industrial purposes. Public open space, 5487 acres, accounts for 2.6% of St. Mary's County land area. MDNR lands (4,911 acres) account for 89% of total county open space.

St. Mary's County is noteworthy as the site of Maryland's first European settlement. Colonists landed on St. Clements Island in 1634, who moved to the mainland to found St. Mary's City. Maryland's government resided in St. Mary's City until 1694 when the seat of power moved to Annapolis.

Farming and fishing remained the mainstay of the county's economy until the opening of the Patuxent Naval Air station in 1941. Post World War II development induced suburban growth and the expansion of the service economy. The county's population doubled to 30,000 by 1950 as a result of these changes. By the close of the 1970's, new highway construction and suburban development in neighboring Charles County brought St. Mary's County closer to the orbit of Metropolitan Washington, D.C.

According to the 1990 U.S. Census, 75,974 people live in St. Mary's County. The population, a dramatic increase from the 1950 Census county is expected to increase by % by the year 2000. Even so, St. Mary's County has the lowest density of the MDNR southern region, allowing open space preservation to continue at a measured paced.

Point Lookout State park is in St. Mary county's 1st election district, and is easily reached by Maryland State Route 5. The state park is bordered by residential districts and farmland

on its northern most portion, with some private lots bordering its southern section on Route 5.

Flat lands surrounding the park are interrupted by stretches of loblolly pine, forested wetlands and large impoundments. No major structures dominate the park's landscape. The state park's service structures represent modern architecture styles in contrast to the vernacular style homes and farm buildings within and near state park boundaries. In general, the landform of Point Lookout State Park has more in common with Maryland's Eastern shore, than open space areas situated along the Potomac River.

Part II Resource Analysis and Assessment

Introduction

The Resource Analysis and Assessment conducted at Point Lookout State Park helped to determine the most suitable locations for capital improvements. These are areas that could sustain development with the least amount of detriment to the environment. A variety of data base resources, such as aerial photography, topographic maps and written documents, were employed to identify sensitive areas as defined by Maryland's growth management legislation. These areas include flood plains, steep slopes (15% slope and greater), natural heritage species habitat and wetlands:

In mapping the areas best suited for improvement, a series of overlays are drawn with each sensitive area as a variable. The sensitive area maps are layered together to create a composite map showing all variables. The final composite map reveals dark and light envelopes, with the light envelopes having the least constraints for improvements, and the darker envelopes exhibiting potentially severe constraints.

Before discussing the findings of the resource analysis, it is important to examine the context of Point Lookout's natural history in the light of current environmental concerns about the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and its inhabitants.

Natural History

The present character of Point Lookout State Park can be traced back to the glacial retreat over 20,000 years ago at the end of the Pleistocene geologic epoch. Gradual melting of the glacier over several millennia fed the headwaters of the Susquehanna River to create a huge torrent of water. Melting ice caused the Atlantic Ocean to rise and meet the river, flooding the ancient valley that now contains the Chesapeake Bay. This flood occurred over a period of some 10,000 years.

Point Lookout is a product of upland erosion from the Piedmont and resulting silt disposition. The small alluvial plain of Point

Lookout is located at the confluence of the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay. The state park is located at the tip of an on going geologic process that is predicted to reverse itself within the next 10,000 years. Geologists expect a cooling of the Earth's temperature, and the depression of sea level when water is once again trapped in glaciers.

The Chesapeake Bay, so named by members of the Algonquin Indian Nation for its abundant shell fish, is the most important natural resource of the Point Lookout Area. It is the largest bay in the United States at 2,500 square miles, with over 4000 linear miles of waterfront and 150 tributaries.

Point Lookout is located on the Atlantic Coastal Plain. The state park is located on the Wicomico terrace, third highest of five geologic terrace formations making up the Atlantic Coastal plain. These formations, developed during the Pleistocene epoch, from the highest in elevation to the lowest are:

- Lafayette Terrace
- Sunderland Terrace
- Wicomico Terrace
- Recent Terrace
- Submarine Terrace

Natural processes have endowed Point Lookout with a number of habitats identified with the Bay and its environs. These features may be found at the state park: sand beaches, inter tidal flats, pier rock jetties, shallow waters, sea grass meadow, marshes and oyster bars. The following discussion of the state park's sensitive areas identifies the parameters for future improvements in the light of this important natural phenomenon.

Sensitive Area Assessment

The Economic Growth and Resource Protection and Planning Act of 1992 represents a milestone in the long process of bringing development within the scope of comprehensive landuse planning. The Sensitive Areas Element of the act stipulates that a "sensitive areas assessment" be conducted prior to large scale

land development. The four key areas of the sensitive area assessment are steep slope (slopes 15% and greater), natural heritage species habitat, 100 year flood zone, and stream buffers (wetlands, Critical Area). This section also includes discussion on vegetation, wildlife and soil conditions that have an impact on park recreation improvements.

One Hundred year Flood Zone

Much of Point Lookout State Park south of the causeway is situated within the 100 year flood zone. The flood zone also cover portions of the camping loops and low lying areas within the former Jacob's farm. New construction within the flood zone must comply with Federal Emergency Act Regulations.

Natural Heritage Plant and Animal Species

While no natural heritage species, plant or animal, has been recorded at Point Lookout State Park, a 45 acre barrier island has been established as a natural habitat. The island is protected from development by the Sensitive Management Area section of Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR). Established to protect vegetation and wildlife from human disturbance, is not connected to the mainland by improved roads and is accessible only by boat.

Wetlands

Point Lookout State Park is a water oriented facility, as the presence of water can be observed from nearly every vantage point within the facility. Potters Creek, Point Lookout Creek, Lake Conoy, the Chesapeake Bay, the Potomac River and Tanner Creek define the edges of the state park, resulting in several thousand feet of shore frontage. The former Jacobs Farm has 3,100 linear feet of shore front on Potters Creek and Point Lookout Creek. Point Lookout State Park has 7000 liner feet of beach frontage on the Chesapeake Bay and 5400 linear feet of beach frontage on the Potomac River. Consequently, wetlands figure prominently in shaping the state park's built character.

Wetlands serve many functions that deserved continued attention and conservation. Aside from imparting to the state park a scenic presence, wetlands enhance the overall water quality surrounding the Bay. Wetlands provide hydrological benefits such as flood control,

ground water recharge and animal habitat. Wetlands within the state park's boundary include tidal creeks, coastal salt meadows, sandy beaches, irregularly flooded salt marshes and forested wetland.

Nearly all of the state parks's entire land area (1,042 acres) falls under the protection of the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Act. The Act stipulates that development within 1000 feet of the Chesapeake Bay or its tributaries must meet certain performance standards. A delegate from each county in Maryland within the Chesapeake Bay's watershed sits on the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission to review proposals. All improvement concepts within this master plan must be presented to the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission for review and approval.

Due to the state park's abundance of wetlands, improvements identified in the master plan must also meet the approval of the Water Resources Administration (WRA). As the first stop in the permitting process, WRA staff will coordinate related review procedures managed by the Army Corp of Engineers and Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). MDE will pay close attention to storm water management and erosion control techniques employed during and after construction. The permits issued by WRA, MDE and the Army Corps of Engineers will convey conditions to MDNR to insure that the work is of good quality and has limited disturbance to the wetlands.

Soil Conditions

Point Lookout State Park lacks the soil useful for traditional park development and supporting infrastructure. Elkton, Tidal Marsh, Othello and sandy loams from the Klej and Woodson soil series form the mass of material used for foundations at Point Lookout. The camping loop area of Point Lookout State Park is composed of these alluvial deposits of sand, silt and clay accumulated over the past several millennium. With bedrock several thousand feet below the surface of the north and south sectors, dredged and imported material has been used to prepare construction sites.

Engineering is required to mitigate the effect of wave action from the Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River that results in the continual disposition and placement of soil material south of the Route 5 causeway. Extensive revetment and breakwater work initiated by the MDNR Shore Erosion Control Program has dramatically stemmed the rate of soil erosion, formerly one acre of land per year. Soils in this area are made of fine sands, organic silt and clay.

Soils in the former Jacobs parcel are poorly drained and composed of saturated clays and silts. Farming occurs on amended soils and soil in the Mettapex soil series. The nature sanctuary island is formed of well drained fine sands that are free of clay deposits and silt.

In summary, soil conditions at Point Lookout State Park require that considerable care and deliberation be taken by MDNR prior to implementation of master plan improvements.

Vegetation

Point Lookout State Park is located within the loblolly pine forest association characteristic of Southern Maryland and Maryland Eastern Shore Chesapeake Bay front environs. While loblolly pine is the dominant tree species, patches of forest bearing sweetgum, sassafras, persimmon, American holly, black tupelo, eastern red cedar and plane tree are spread through the north sector of the park. Under story species of note are bayberry, wax myrtle, winged sumac, green briar, bay berry and Japanese honey suckle.

The large forested wetland within the former Jacob's parcel contains sweetgum, tulip poplar northern red oak and American plane tree. White oak and black tupelo can be also be found here. Naturalists have noted this forest as an important habitat for Forest Interior Dwelling Birds (FIDS).

A great deal of vegetation linked to on-site wetland regimes are located within the state park. Panic grass, baccharis, crepe myrtle, phragmites and widgeon grass can be found in the coastal salt meadow. Needle rush, marsh elder, groundsel and salt marsh cord grass occupy the state park's salt marshes. Stands of American beach grass mark the state park's

Potomac River frontage. The nature sanctuary island is noted for its prickly pear cactus, a plant favoring dry sands along the Atlantic Coastal Plain. Proposed master plan improvements are to avoid breaking on site forest canopy and degrading the habitat of wetland plant communities. The simplified forest stand delineation, required under Maryland's Forest Conservation Act of 1992, helps to select a forest for protection.

Simplified Forest Stand Delineation (to be completed)

Wildlife

The range of local habitat types: forested, wetlands, low land pine forest, salty estuarine bay marshes, beaches and tidal bay represent opportunities for a variety of wildlife. Visitors attracted by hunting, fishing and wildlife photography encounter rabbit, fox, raccoon, opossum, skunk, otter, mink, muskrat, quail, squirrel and deer. A managed hunting program on the former Jacobs farm is in effect to control the local deer population. Box turtles, snakes and frogs inhabit the moist edge of the wetland forest. Avian species include great blue heron, ospreys, seasonal geese, and ducks. The former Jacobs farm is home to a great blue heron rookery and a bald eagle nest.

Lake Conoy is home to several species of fish including spot, menhaden, grass shrimp, mummichog, striped kill fish, summer flounder and striped kill fish. Sport fishermen ply the local waters in search of striped bass, white perch, spot, croaker, blue fish and weak fish. Fishing for crabs and oysters on the Potomac River and Lake Conoy is another popular pursuit. The importance of fish resources to Point Lookout State Park is borne out by the capped stone jetties, floating piers found in the state park. A concrete and wood fishing pier, extending 600 feet into the Chesapeake Bay lures fishing parties and strollers over the Bay's waters.

Cultural Resources

Site History

The land now known as Point Lookout State evolved through several significant permutations before its present form. This

evolution parallels the changing circumstances that define Maryland's culture and history.

Point Lookout was part of the English land grant that led to the founding of Maryland's first capital at St. Mary's City. The land grant was patented on August 30, 1634 to Governor Leonard Calvert from Lord Baltimore. Point Lookout was part of a 3000 acre tract that included St. Michaels Manor, Trinity Manor and St. Gabriels Manor. The site's name was changed from St. Michaels to Point Lookout in 1665.

not really. The first ^{known} use of the term Point Lookout occurred in 1865

During the Colonial period, Point Lookout witnessed two Indian attacks. The first attack (whose perpetrators may have been Europeans disguised as Indians) occurred in 1648. Thomas Allen and his three sons suffered an assault, in which he and one son were killed. The surviving sons were recovered from Indians after a long search. In 1681, Indians from Virginia massacred a group of colonists at Point Lookout.

The record is silent on Point Lookout until 1830, when the United States Navy built a light house atop a brick and wood structure at the tip of the Peninsula. In 1857 William Cost Johnson of Frederick County, Maryland purchased land that is now Point Lookout State Park with intentions to build a sea side resort. His unsuccessful venture was mortgaged to William Allen of Baltimore City. Allen supervised the completion of a hotel and 100 summer cottages by 1862.

Outbreak of the Civil War in 1861 caused the United States to secure all strategic points in Southern Maryland, where the populace showed great sympathy for the Confederate Union. After the onset of the Civil War the Federal Government leased the 400-acre site to build a military hospital. The hospital, named after Surgeon General W. A. Hammond, had 15 buildings arranged in a circle with 4 buildings at its center. The 15 buildings were connected at their roof line by a sky walk. The hotel served as wards A and B of the Hammond Hospital. The Battle of Gettysburg altered the outcome of hospital construction. Union forces needed a site to house hundreds of captured Confederate prisoners. In late 1863, 9000 Confederate

prisoners joined imprisoned Confederate sympathizers already housed near the hospital in assorted sheds and tents. Growing war demands called for formal dedication of the Camp Hoffman Confinement Center. The confinement center, nothing more than a collection of stables, tents, guard houses and storehouses, inflicted a high mortality rate. It was not a humane place, being inadequate for the needs of its occupants. It held more than 20,000 war prisoners by the close of hostilities. The camp ranked by historians with the infamous Andersonville Prison (run by Confederates) for its stark brutality. At least 4000 prisoners perished, setting a mortality rate of 25%. One survivor, Sidney Lanier of Macon, Georgia, went on to become the poet laureate of the South. He recorded his memories of the camp in a novel, *Tiger Lilies* (1867). Another survivor, John J. Omenhauser recorded scenes of the camp in a sketch book, leaving a poignant reminder of the atrocities committed at the camp. His drawings are on file at the library of the Maryland Historic Trust headquarters in Crownsville, Maryland.

some authors suggest this is not altogether fair

I thought they were @ MH5

After the Civil War ended in 1865, the entire camp was demolished and its salvageable parts sold to willing buyers. Only Fort Lincoln, one of three earthen fortifications hastily built in 1864 remains. It is the last surviving Civil War Era fortification in Southern Maryland. Two monuments commemorate the prison camp's Confederate dead. The first monument, a marble obelisk, was dedicated in 1878 by the State of Maryland. The monument was relocated three times due to the loss of shoreline. It now stands next to a granite obelisk, 85 feet tall, dedicated by the United States to prisoner of war dead. The Federal monument erected in 1910, has twelve bronze plaques at its base. The monuments sit atop the remains of Confederate prisoners buried at the camp. The obelisks are situated on a small enclosure just north of the state park's boundary near route 5.

In 1868, an attempt to build a railroad from Point Lookout to Washington, D.C. was inaugurated with the incorporation of the Southern Maryland Railroad. Ben Tippet was appointed chief engineer by the corporation to supervise design and construction. The financially plagued corporation completed a

*are there any springs on the prop.
source of freshwater?*

Yes! short line running from Charlotte Hall to Brandywine before selling its assets to a number of companies. A successor company, The Washington, Brandywine, Prince George's and Point Lookout Railroad, better known as the Farmers Railroad, ran the line from the 1910's to 1942. The community owned company served small neighborhoods bordering its right of way for nearly two decades. The U.S. Navy took over the railroad line to help in the war effort, ending service on it in 1954. In 1970, St. Mary's County Commissioners purchased the line's right of way from the U.S. General Services Administration. The tracks of the locally famous railroad are now gone. Within Point Lookout State Park, the prepared road bed is evident, with a portion of the rail bed serving as the periwinkle trail dedicated to hikers. The rail bed may yet play a role in physically linking the north and south sector of the state park to the former Jacobs farm.

Point Lookout, long cherished as a vacation destination, developers built a second hotel in the 1920's, four decades after the first Point Lookout Hotel burned down in 1878. The new hotel, a rambling two storey wood clad building, had 58 rooms and a long gabled dormer roof line. It had 2 pools and play courts for visitors. The popular tourist attraction served two generations of Marylanders before it closed its doors forever in 1971. Its demise can be traced to the new opportunities for vacationing posed by advancements in transportation. With plans to convert the building to a new use unrealized, the structure was demolished in 1990 to make way for a new fishing pier and its support facilities.

In 1962, the State of Maryland purchased 495 acres of land to form the nucleus of what is now Point Lookout State Park. Subsequent purchases included several lots from the Scotland Beach Subdivision, property of the Point Lookout Hotel and the former Jacobs Farm.

Historic Structures

Most of Point Lookout State Park's legendary historic structures are gone: the few remaining structures provide a faint glimmer of the site's role in state history. The state park's remaining historic structures are:

- The Smoke House - built in the 1920's (and often mistaken for an older Civil War Era structure) for U.S. Navy/Coast Guard meat storage. The house is a simple brick structure with a pitched roof.

- Fort Lincoln - built in 1864 as defence against a rumored Confederate effort to liberate Hoffman Confinement Camp prisoners, the fort is the last remaining of three similar structures built at Point Lookout.

Several undistinguished farm houses and bungalows line the paper streets of past subdivisions. One farm house, not currently in use, was built in the late 1800's. Important historic structures lay just outside the boundary of the state park. To the north are the Civil War monuments erected to commemorate Confederate Civil War dead. To the south, at the very tip of the St. Mary's County peninsula, is a combination lighthouse and brick house built in 1830. This lighthouse and three others are all that remain of several facilities along the Potomac River. The lighthouse, sitting on top of a brick house, saw continuous service from 1830 until 1965. In the 1930's, it was the first light tower to experiment with wind driven lights. A light fixture placed off the Point now warns approaching ships. The house and light tower, owned by the Federal Government, is open to the public once a year.

Archeology

Point Lookout has been the scene of several archeologic studies because of its role in Civil War lore. So far most archeologic finds have been limited to the state park south of the monuments, particularly the sector below the causeway. Off shore research resulted in the recovery of several civil war era artifacts from both captor and prisoner. Many finds from this earlier work are on display at the state park's interpretive center. It is possible that several important artifacts remain undiscovered within the state park. To date, no major work has occurred on the former Jacobs Farm.

A study undertaken in 1974 provided the basis of useful site plan that presents a reconstructed foot print of the Civil War era hospital and the structures associated with the prison. While preliminary in content, the map

identified the location of areas that may be useful to explore for more artifacts. The map goes so far as to record the location of Point Look's shoreline, tracing its erosion over the course of 150 years. Figure () reproduces this map on page ().

Future investigation at the state park must comply with the guidelines used by the Maryland Historic Trust to safeguard against the loss of valuable historic artifacts. In brief, the guidelines call for a preliminary level of archeologic investigation in the early stages of project design development, before construction begins. This research will determine whether or not more excavation is needed to recover artifacts of historic interest. A ^{certified professional} archeologist is needed to make this ruling.

Archeologic investigators are initiating a thorough study of the area in and around the naval facility. The work, ^{funded} sponsored by the ~~United State~~ Department of Defense, and ^{Legacy Resources Fund} conducted by archeologists housed at the Jefferson/Patterson Park Museum in Calvert county, will begin in spring 1995. The findings of this study will have an impact on the scope of work to be proposed for future improvements.

Surrounding Landuse Impact County Landuse Trends

The comprehensive landuse plan for St. Mary's County recommends concentrating development near the county's traditional town centers. By stipulating lower densities along the shoreline and within sensitive areas through zoning and subdivision rules, planners hope to limit the need for new infrastructure. This work recognizes that existing commercial and residential communities have stronger social, economic and cultural networks to promote community cohesion.

Point Lookout State Park's immediate environs are largely open space, shaped by tracks of farmland and forest cover. Camp Brown and the Washington, D.C. Boys and Girls Camp combine with Point Lookout State Park to form a chain of open space. The few single family homes within this mini-greenway are set back from the road and have plantings that blend with the prevailing scenic character.

New development near Point Lookout State Park is highly unlikely. Existing homes, built before current sanitary regulations, use septic systems in spite of the high water table, hydric soils and the constant threat of flooding. There are no plans to extend sewer service or water service to these communities, effectively freezing the growth of this area at its present size.

Part III The Development Plan

Master Plan Elements

Development Plan Objectives

Related Planning Objectives

Regional Greenways Initiative

Point Lookout State Park is one of the many publicly held properties within the Potomac River Greenway. "America's River" has become an important symbolic ~~element~~ ^{part of the} in the struggle to resuscitate rivers for recreation and human consumption. The river flows for over 300 miles from its headwaters in West Virginia. A number of important trail systems ^{lead down} ~~lay~~ ^{to the mouth at Point Lookout.} along its corridor, with the longest being the C&O Canal from Cumberland in Western Maryland to Georgetown in Washington, D. C. Other significant trails within the Greenway are the Harper's Ferry Trail and National Historic site, and the George Washington Parkway Trail in Northern Virginia. The Potomac River Greenway, with its multi-state watershed, large land area and many historic sites, represents a unique challenge to align its role in history with the need to preserve open space for future generations.

Efforts to bring various greenway initiatives under the aegis of the Potomac River Heritage Corridor are slowly gaining momentum. Several public and private agencies are working to build a coalition to secure a vision of open space that is continuous and unbroken. Maryland Greenways Commission, the Potomac River Greenways Coalition, the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin and the Potomac River Watershed Visions Project are working to link wildlife habitat, historical resources and cultural resources to responsible management of the waterway and its drainage basin. For example, the Potomac River Greenways Coalition, in cooperation with the Maryland Greenways Commission, held a series of workshops and meetings to forge ties with the communities along the river's corridor, ^{in an effort} to strengthen the web of understanding about the significance of a Potomac River Greenway. Point Lookout State Park as a protected natural resources, represents a small yet ^{very} significant part of the river's long corridor.

State Park Protection

The projected acquisition program for Point Lookout State Park, with the exception of a few inholdings, is complete with purchase of the Jacobs Farm in 1992. The inholdings should be acquired when current owners seek to sell. Lots fronting Tanner Creek, if offered for sale, should be considered for purchase by MDNR. These lots cannot be improved ~~upon~~ due to current environmental regulations and sanitary health codes.

While fee simple acquisition has been the method most used to protect state park land, alternatives to land purchase could be explored. Private land trusts, scenic easements and protective covenants are negotiated initiatives that can effectively preserve open space.

Greenways and Resource Planning Strategic Plan

MDNR's Greenways and Resource Planning Program seeks to integrate several planning and capital budgeting activities into a framework for managing open space resources. This framework is shaped under a strategic plan for MDNR property improvement and acquisition. By using data resources and information from informal sources, the plan establishes a broad ongoing planning approach for all MDNR land units, including Point Lookout State Park. By taking into consideration a facility's existing recreation capacity, open space, natural resources and physical plant, the strategic plan forms positions that have implications for decision making at the property boundary level. Its recommendations can also influence facility construction and capital development in the early stages of policy formation. The authority and key directives for strategic planning hail from MDNR's Administrative Policy regarding land acquisition, planning and development.

Point Lookout State Park has sweeping view sheds of the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay. The state park possess a shoreline of scenic interest. The state park also has useful agriculture fields, large canopy forest, marsh lands and scenic habitat. These features

need to talk about historic resources here, esp. with regard to statement in first column
→ how can the historic resources at Point Lookout fit into the mission of the Greenways folks

must be weighted against the needs posed by recreation capacity and physical plant renewal.

A rich historic record that evokes visitor interest in the state park throughout the year is another refrain expressed earlier. The strategic plan has to acknowledge the role of human design and local nature in bringing Point Lookout State Park to a level of acceptable improvement. It will also enable future improvements and management decisions to work together to assure that new features such as cabins, pools and play areas are smoothly integrated into the fabric of state park facilities.

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